

Woonsocket

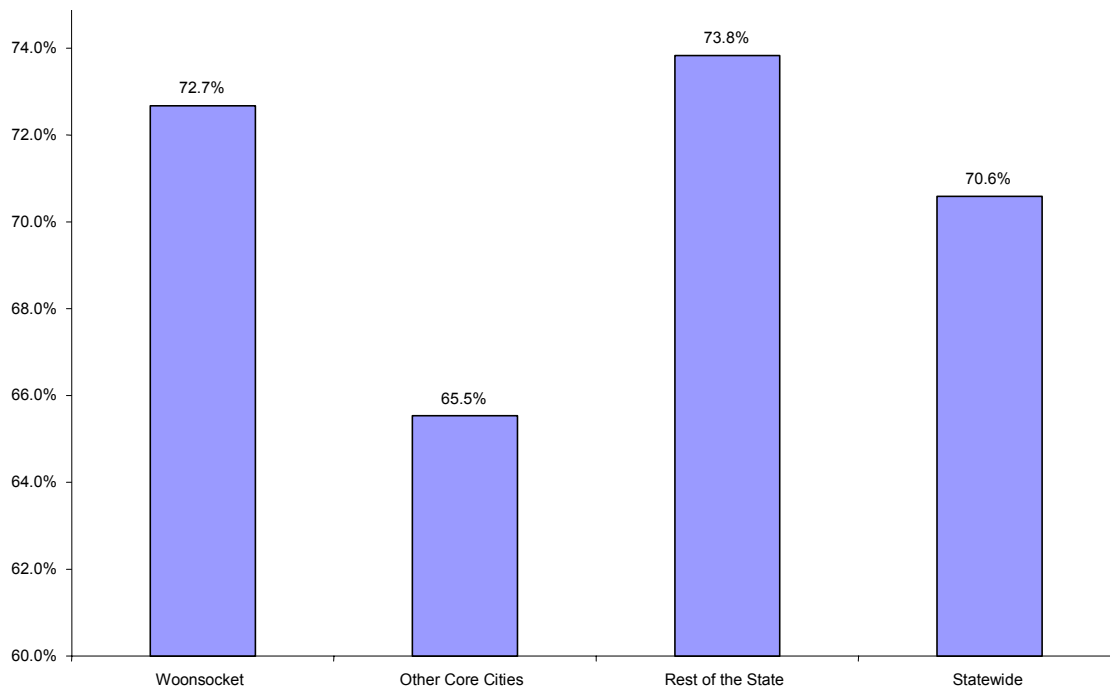
Contents

<i>Number Of Woonsocket Children Screened For Lead Poisoning</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Woonsocket Children With Lead Poisoning</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Lead Poisoning Rates In Woonsocket By Race And Ethnicity</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Geographic Distribution Of Lead Poisoning In Woonsocket.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Woonsocket Children With Significant Lead Poisoning.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Woonsocket Housing Information.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Woonsocket Environmental Inspections.....</i>	<i>8</i>

Number Of Woonsocket Children Screened For Lead Poisoning

- Lead poisoning rarely has immediate symptoms. For this reason, the only way to know if a child has been lead poisoned is through a blood test.
- State regulations require doctors to screen all children less than six years of age for lead poisoning each year. Screening should start when the child is 9 months old. Evidence of screening for lead poisoning is required to enter preschool and kindergarten.
- Despite these requirements, screening practices of doctors vary across the state and many children are not screened for lead poisoning.
- 72.7% of Woonsocket children are screened by 18 months of age compared to 65.5% in the other core cities and 73.8% in the rest of the state.
- Woonsocket has been successful in identifying children with lead poisoning and providing support services to reduce further exposure to lead among these children. However, to eliminate lead poisoning in Woonsocket the focus must be on housing.

Percentage of children tested at least once by 18 months of age



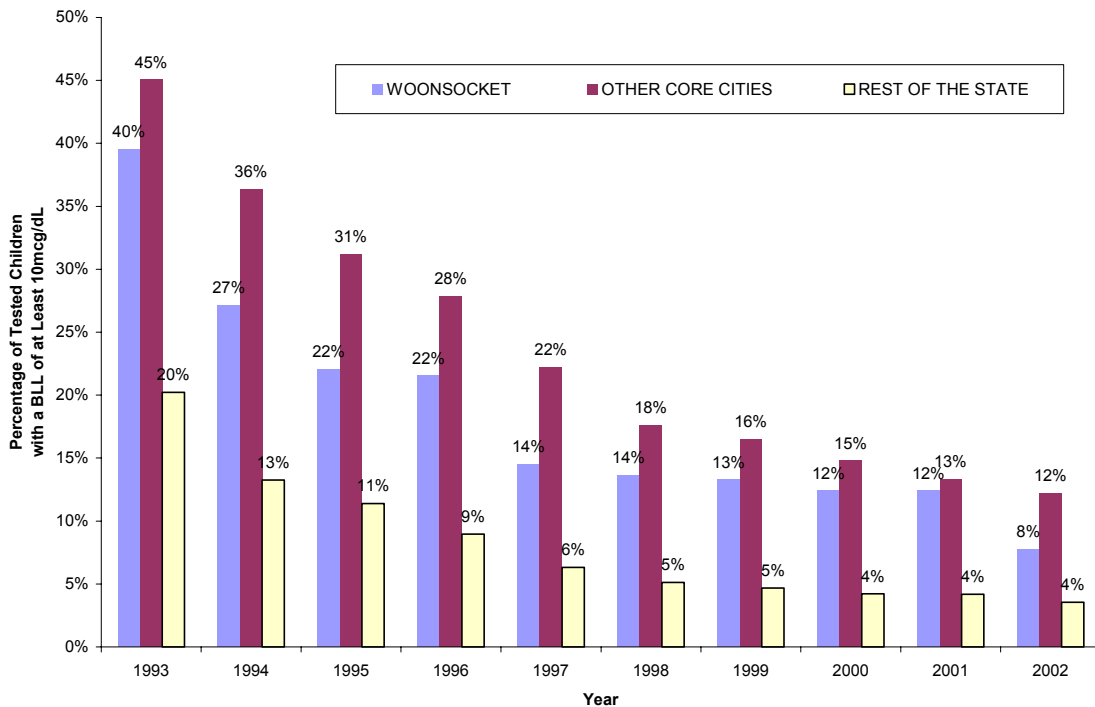
Lead Screening Quality Improvement Projects

- The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program conducted quality improvement assessments in two Woonsocket pediatric practices in 2000 and 2002. These studies found that 93.1% and 76.7% of the children in these practices between the ages of 15 and 36 months had at least one lead screening test.

Woonsocket Children With Lead Poisoning

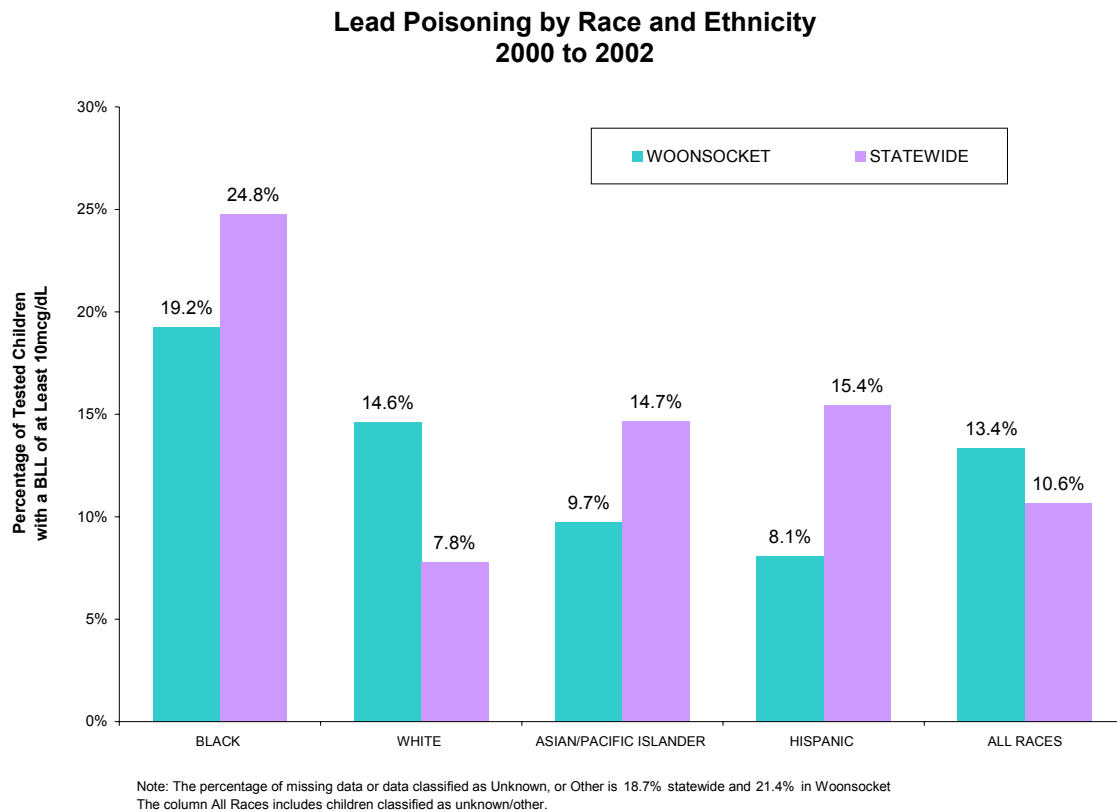
- The proportion of children with elevated blood lead levels ($\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$) has decreased substantially over the last 10 years from 40% in 1993 to 8% in 2002.
- In 2002, 144 children had an elevated level of lead in their blood ($\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$) compared to 868 children in 1993.
- Lead poisoning in children continues to be concentrated in Rhode Island's core cities -- Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.
- In 2002, Woonsocket had the lowest rate of lead poisoning among the core cities where the proportion of children with lead poisoning range from 8% to 14%. Despite being the lowest among the core cities, the rate of lead poisoning in Woonsocket is twice that of the remainder of the state.

Percentage of Tested Children with Lead Poisoning
1993 to 2002



Lead Poisoning Rates In Woonsocket By Race And Ethnicity

- Not all children face the same burden of lead poisoning.
- The highest rates of lead poisoning ($\geq 10\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) in Woonsocket are among African Americans (19.2%) and Whites (14.6%), with lower rates among Asian/Pacific Islanders (9.7%) and Hispanics (8.1%).
- Statewide, the rate of lead poisoning is also highest among African Americans with 24.8% of tested children having elevated levels. However, lead poisoning among White children in Woonsocket is almost twice that of Whites statewide – 14.6% in Woonsocket compared to 7.8% statewide.

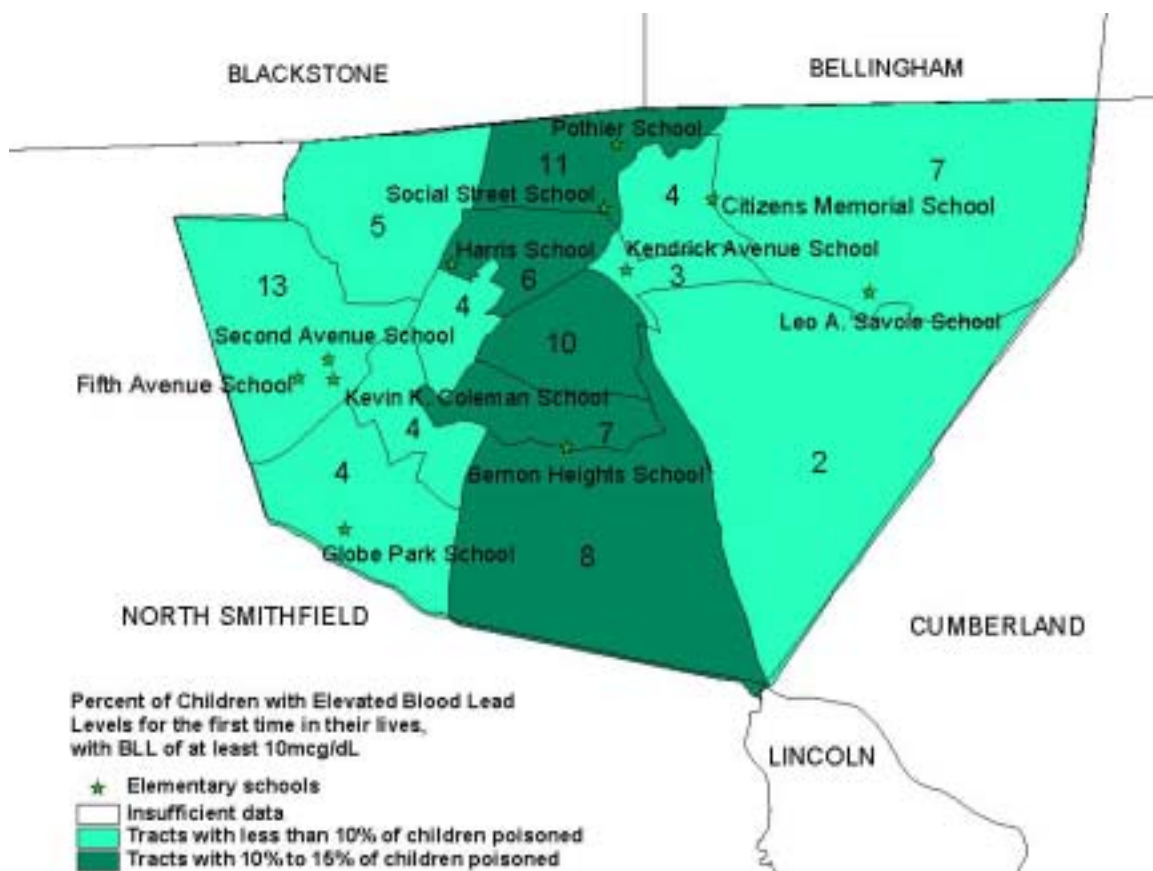


- Note: Analysis of data on race and ethnicity is essential if the State is to achieve its goal to eliminate lead poisoning. However, collecting race and ethnicity data accurately and consistently has proven to be a challenge. The data for this analysis was extracted from two sources (KIDSNET and Lead Database) each of which collect the data in a different way. Due to data quality issues the chart may overestimate race specific rates.

Geographic Distribution Of Lead Poisoning In Woonsocket

- Significant disparities in rates of lead poisoning also exist by geographic location within Woonsocket.
- The colors of the map below illustrate the percent of tested children with blood lead levels $\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$ by census tract (using census tract areas for 1990 Census).
- The numbers on the map represent the actual number of children living in each census tract with a blood lead level $\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$ for the first time in their lives.
- The highest proportion of cases of lead poisoning are concentrated in five of 14 Woonsocket census tract areas.
- This data demonstrate that the elimination of lead poisoning at the neighborhood level is a reasonable goal given the relatively small number of lead poisoned children in each census tract.

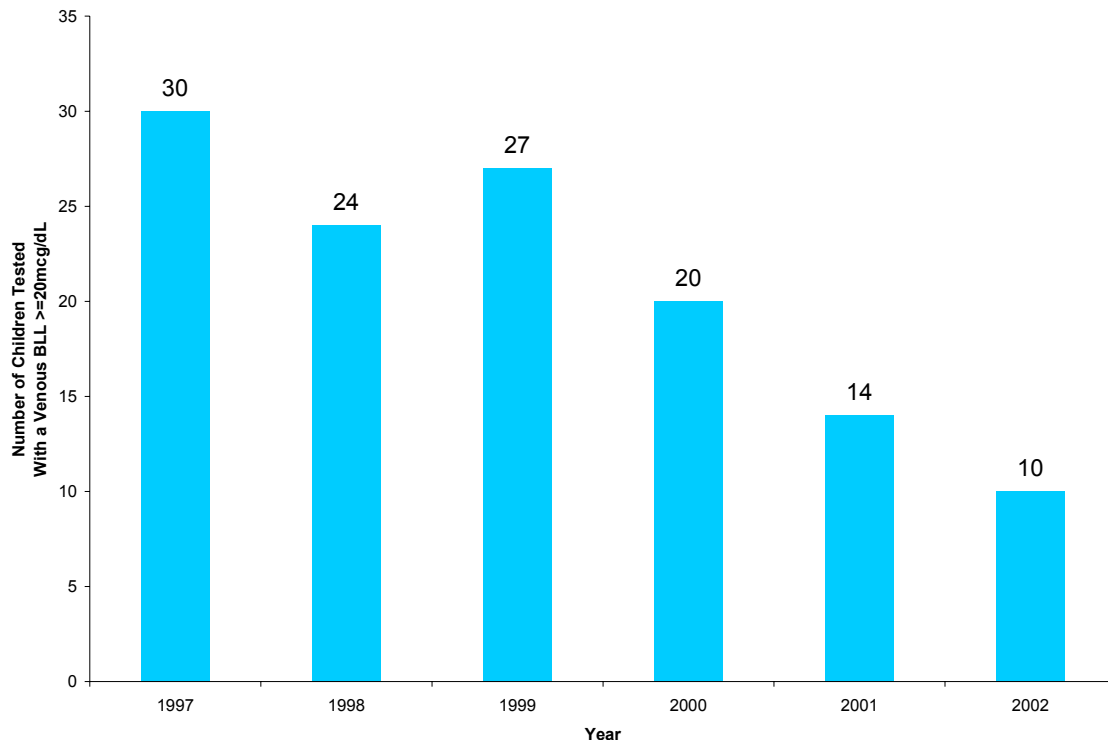
**Number and Percentage of Children Tested in Woonsocket
With BLL of at least $\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$
By Census Tract**



Woonsocket Children With Significant Lead Poisoning

- The number of Woonsocket children with significant lead poisoning ($\geq 20\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) has decreased from 30 in 1997 to 10 in 2002.
- By state regulation, children with significant lead poisoning are eligible for special state services including comprehensive case management through one of the state's Lead Centers and an environmental inspection of the child's house.
- Hospitalizations for lead poisoning are increasingly rare. Since 1996, only six children from Woonsocket have been hospitalized for severe lead poisoning ($\geq 45\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) -- 1 case in 1996, one case in 1997, three cases in 1998, and two cases in 1999. There were no hospitalizations for severe lead poisoning in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

**Number of Children with Confirmed
Significantly Elevated Blood Lead Levels
1997 to 2002**

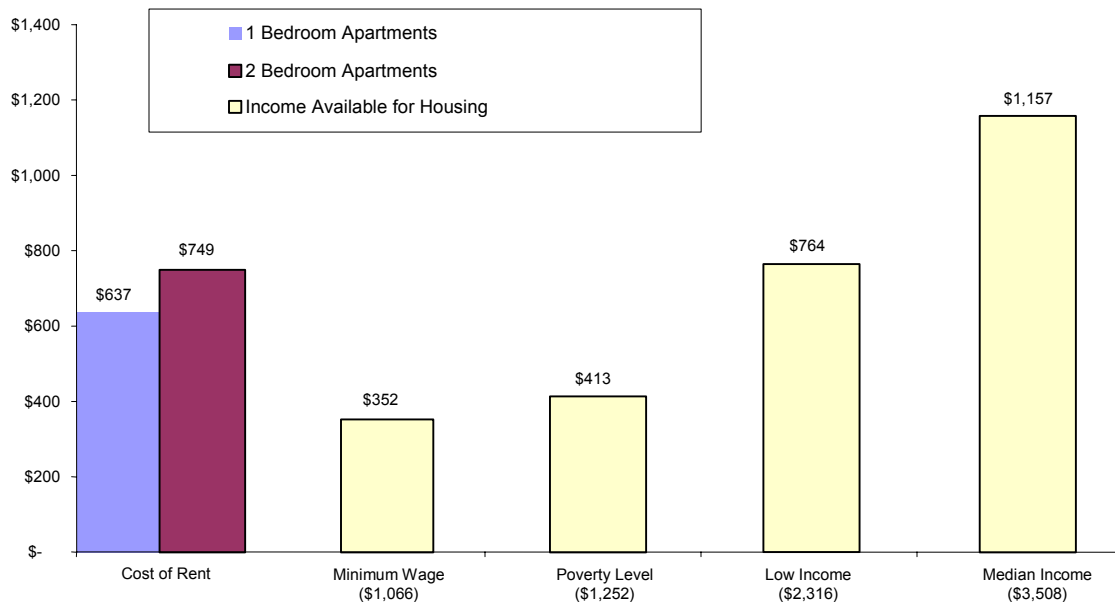


Note: Significant lead poisoning is defined as one confirmed blood lead level greater than or equal to $20\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, or two lead tests that are greater than or equal to $15\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and are at least 90 days apart but no more than 365 days apart.

Woonsocket Housing Information

- According to the 2000 Census, there are 18,757 housing units in Woonsocket, with 621 (3%) vacant and for rent.
- According to HUD guidelines, rent expenses should be limited to no more than 30% of the total family income.
- The average cost of a one bedroom rental in Woonsocket is \$637 per month and a two bedroom rental costing \$749.
- A family of three earning minimum wage or wages equal to the Federal Poverty Level are not able to afford housing in Woonsocket as prescribed by the HUD guidelines.

Cost of Housing in Woonsocket as Compared to HUD Housing Affordability Income Standards



Source of data: Rhode Island Housing rent survey, 2002

Woonsocket Environmental Inspections

- Between 1998 and 2002, 72 homes in Woonsocket were inspected by the state because a child with significant lead poisoning was in residence.
- Of the 72 homes inspected, significant lead hazards were identified in all but three homes. In the remaining 69 homes, the homeowner was issued a Notice of Violation and a Notice to Abate to bring the dwelling into compliance with state regulation.
- In almost one-half of the inspected properties with violation have had the lead hazards completely abated making the home safer for the child and for the children who may reside there in the future.
- An additional 14 cases are still considered “open or pending” by the Department of Health, meaning the owner is still under the Notice to Abate, is actively working toward compliance, or abatement of the interior or exterior is in process.
- Continuing refusal by the property owner to comply with the regulations result in court action to force compliance. As of January 2003, 8 cases in Woonsocket were in the hands the Attorney General’s office.

Environmental Inspections*, 1998-2002

Total Inspections Offered	96
Tenant Refused Inspection or Child Moved	24
Number of Inspections Performed	72
Inspection findings	
No violations found	3
Lead hazards completely abated	34
Abatement is complete excluding soil remediation	2
Exterior has been abated, the interior is pending	5
Interior has been abated, the exterior is pending	3
Enrolled in a HUD program, awaiting abatement	1
Case remains open with Department of Health	4
Referred to AG for prosecution	8
The parent is the owner so the case is not prosecuted	10
Other	2

* Snapshot of the database as of 01/26/03